

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace Paragraph beginning at page 12, line 18 to page 12, line 26 with the following paragraphs in mark-up format.

In one embodiment, an elastomeric portion 333, such as an elastomeric band is included to provide a retention force for the attaching devices 332 such as bone screws. As illustrated in Figs. 3A and 3B, the base unit 330 defines a groove at a perimeter of the base unit 330. The groove is operable to hold the elastomeric portion 333 such that a portion of an elastomeric portion 333 extends into a passage of the standoff features 334.

However, the retention force provided by the elastomeric portion 333 does not inhibit actuation of the attaching devices 332. In this way, attaching devices 332 are held in place on the base unit 330, ready for attachment such as screwing into a patient. The attachment devices are therefore not easily dropped on the floor, and the base unit 330 can be attached to a patient more easily. In one method, the base unit 330 can be attached to a patient using one hand to hold the base unit, and one hand to hold a screwdriver.